

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes ☐
no ☐

Property Name: Victorian Brick House (Sener House) Inventory Number: WA-I-076
Address: 21411 Jefferson Boulevard (MD 64) Historic district: ☐ yes ☒ no
City: Smithsburg Zip Code: 21783 County: Washington
USGS Quadrangle(s): Hagerstown
Property Owner: Elwood Grimm Tax Account ID Number: 007339
Tax Map Parcel Number(s): 418 Tax Map Number: 51
Project: Chewsville Streetscape Improvements Agency: Maryland State Highway Administration
Agency Prepared By: A.D. Marble & Company
Preparer's Name: Emma Young Date Prepared: 3/26/2007
Documentation is presented in: Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties form, WA-I-096, on file at the Maryland Historical Trust, Crownsville, Maryland.
Preparer's Eligibility Recommendation: ☐ Eligibility recommended ☒ Eligibility not recommended
Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G
Complete if the property is a contributing or non-contributing resource to a NR district/property:
Name of the District/Property: _____
Inventory Number: _____ Eligible: ☐ yes ☐ no Listed: ☐ yes ☐ no
Site visit by MHT Staff ☐ yes ☒ no Name: _____ Date: _____

Description of Property and Justification: *(Please attach map and photo)*

Architectural Description:

The dwelling identified as the "Victorian Brick House" was previously surveyed in 1975 using a Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties (MIHP) form (WA-I-076, on file at the Maryland Historical Trust, Crownsville, Maryland. The property was not evaluated for eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places as part of the 1975 survey.) This form is to serve as an update and expansion of the 1975 MIHP form.

The "Victorian Brick House" (herein referred to as the Sener House for the property owner identified in the 1877 Atlas of Washington County) is located at 21411 Jefferson Boulevard (MD 64) in Chewsville, Washington County, Maryland. The dwelling, which currently stands vacant in a state of severe disrepair, occupies a 37.88-acre parcel on the south side of Jefferson Boulevard (MD 64). A long, gravel lane extends southward along the east side of the dwelling to a salvage yard located to the rear (south) of the dwelling.

The two-and-a-half-story, side-gabled, circa-1870 I-house contains a steeply pitched, side-gabled roof sheathed in asphalt shingles.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended ☐ Eligibility not recommended ☒
Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

MHT Comments:

Ann VanDusen
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

Blunt
Reviewer, National Register Program

1/8/08
Date

1/7/08
Date

200703832

The roof features decorative, wooden, gingerbread on the cornice. The brick-clad dwelling sits upon a fieldstone foundation. The dwelling retains the original two-over-two light, double-hung sash, wooden windows, the majority of which are hung in pairs, with wooden surrounds and sills. The west end of the front porch that once sheltered the full width of the first floor of the façade (north elevation) has collapsed. The two-story, wooden porch on the east elevation, opened at the time of the 1975 survey, has since been screened in.

Mature deciduous and evergreen trees and dense overgrowth obscure any additional details on all elevations of the dwelling. A salvage yard is located adjacent to the property to the east and south.

Overall, the dwelling stands in poor condition.

Historical Narrative:

Property History

The Sener House, located on what is now known as Jefferson Boulevard (MD 64), was likely constructed by a member of the Hoover family circa 1870. John Hoover is believed to have originally obtained the land from the Henry Lyday estate in the 1860s. In 1874, David Hoover sold the property to Jacob Leatherman, only a month before Leatherman sold it to Nathaniel Sener. Sener paid \$11,493.30 for the property, which contained 68 acres and 32 perches. This price, relative to area land values during that time, indicates that a house was likely extant on the lot when Sener purchased it.

According to a drawing in the 1877 Atlas of Washington County, the property, known as the "Residence and Farm Property of Nathaniel Sener, Esquire" contained the extant dwelling, as well as a detached summer kitchen, large barn, corn crib, and several other frame outbuildings (Lake, Griffing, Stevenson 1877: 42). However, none of the agricultural outbuildings noted in the drawing are extant.

Julia Emmet, widow of Nathaniel Sener, sold the property to Frederick and Nettie Sener in 1907. They paid \$2,000 and mortgaged an additional \$5,000 for the property. The property was noted at that time as being adjacent to lands owned by John Harp and Mrs. Rinehart. This conveyance did not include the portions of the property conveyed to Ignatius Brown in 1874. Ernest and Annette Remsburg obtained the property containing the Sener House for a brief period between 1922 and 1924. They purchased the lot from attorney-in-fact Albert Long. However, they defaulted on their mortgage, and it was sold back to Nettie Sener in 1924.

Nettie Sener, by then a widow, sold the house and 58 acres of land to Bertie M. Grimm for \$8,450 in 1936. Bertie and her husband, William McKinley Grimm, sold 37.83 acres of the land to Elwood W. Grimm in 1966. This parcel included the Sener House and consisted of the portion of the property located on the south side of the roadway. Although the house has been vacant for many years, Elwood Grimm remains the current owner. Grimm established a life tenancy with his children, Bodie Elwood Grimm, Jon William Grimm, and Kendra K. Lookabaugh, in 1989.

The I-House Form

The Sener House is an example of a vernacular I-house. From approximately 1870 through 1925, the I-house was one of the most common residential building types constructed throughout Maryland. I-houses descend from traditional British forms and were common in the United States, most notably the Tidewater South, prior to circa 1890 (McAlester 2002: 96). The popularity of the form continued into the twentieth century, and examples, although usually highly altered, are found throughout the eastern half of the country.

The I-house form consists of side-facing gables, one-room depth, at least two-room width, and two full stories in height (Noble

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Eligibility recommended _____

Eligibility not recommended _____

Criteria: ____ A ____ B ____ C ____ D Considerations: ____ A ____ B ____ C ____ D ____ E ____ F ____ G

MHT Comments:

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

Date

Reviewer, National Register Program

Date

1984: 52). In the late-nineteenth century, the basic I-house form was distinguished by Italianate-style brackets, Eastlake-style porches, and a variety of other stylistic decorative elements (Noble 1984: 55). The exterior of the I-house was typically constructed out of timber frame and clad in horizontal clapboards. I-houses built of brick were also fairly common. Varying patterns of porches, chimneys, and rear extensions are commonly seen in examples dating after circa 1890 (McAlester 2002: 96).

Significance Evaluation:

The Sener House located at 21411 Jefferson Boulevard (MD 64) in Chewsville, Washington County, Maryland is not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The dwelling represents a common architectural type and form found throughout Washington County.

According to the National Register of Historic Places guidelines established by the National Park Service, the quality of significance in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture is present in districts, site, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and:

- A. that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
- B. that are associated with lives of significant persons in our past;
- C. that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction; or
- D. that have yielded or may be likely to yield information important in history or prehistory (National Park Service 1997).

The Sener House, located at 21411 Jefferson Boulevard (MD 64) is not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A. The dwelling is not associated with any events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of history.

The Sener House is not eligible under Criterion B as it has no known association with the lives of individuals of historical importance. Although the individuals who owned and inhabited the property were of families that contributed to the development of the area, the persons who lived in the house were not directly involved in any significant events or trends.

The Sener House is not eligible under Criterion C because the dwelling does not possess the architectural distinctiveness necessary to qualify it for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The I-house represents a common architectural form found throughout Washington County and Maryland. The Sener House is not an exceptional or representative example of its form. The dwelling does not represent the work of a master, nor does it possess high artistic values.

The property was not evaluated for eligibility under Criterion D as part of the architectural survey and evaluation.

The Sener House possesses integrity of location, retaining its location to the south of Twin Springs Drive (MD 804), set back slightly from the south side of Jefferson Boulevard (MD 64). The dwelling retains integrity of design, with the original I-house form intact. The dwelling retains the original windows and doors, which supports integrity of materials and workmanship. The construction of MD 64 circa 1945 and the presence of the adjacent salvage yard detracts from integrity of setting for the property, which in the late-nineteenth-century consisted of a farm complex surrounded by pastureland and cultivated fields. The overgrowth and dense vegetation that largely conceal the elevations of the dwelling and the close proximity of the adjacent salvage yard detract from integrity of feeling and association. Furthermore, the overgrowth and neglect hinders the property's ability to convey its period of construction (circa 1870). Due to a lack of integrity of setting, association, and feeling, the Sener House does not retain

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Date

Reviewer, National Register Program

Date

sufficient integrity necessary to deem it eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

References:

Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson

1877 An Illustrated Atlas of Washington County, Maryland. Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation, Washington County.

2007 Real Property Data Records. Lot 51-2-418. Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation, Washington County. Hagerstown, Maryland.

Maryland Historical Trust

1975 Victorian Brick House, WA-I-076, Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties form, on file at the Maryland Historical Trust: Crownsville, Maryland.

McAlester, Virginia and Lee.

2002 A Field Guide to American Houses. Alfred A. Knopf: New York, New York.

Michael, Mary

1993 The Story of Washington County. Mary Michael: Williamsport, Maryland.

National Park Service

1997 National Register Bulletin: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation. U.S. Department of the Interior: Washington, D.C.

Noble, Allen G.

1984 Wood, Brick, and Stone: The North American Settlement Landscape. The University of Massachusetts Press: Amherst, Massachusetts.

Washington County Office of Land Records, Hagerstown, Maryland.

1874 Land Record Liber WmckK6, Folio 645

1877 Land Record Liber 76, Folio 164

1907 Land Record Liber 126, Folio 338

1924 Land Record Liber 167, Folio 664

1936 Land Record Liber 201, Folio 161

1966 Land Record Liber 450, Folio 28

1989 Land Record Liber 929, Folio 509

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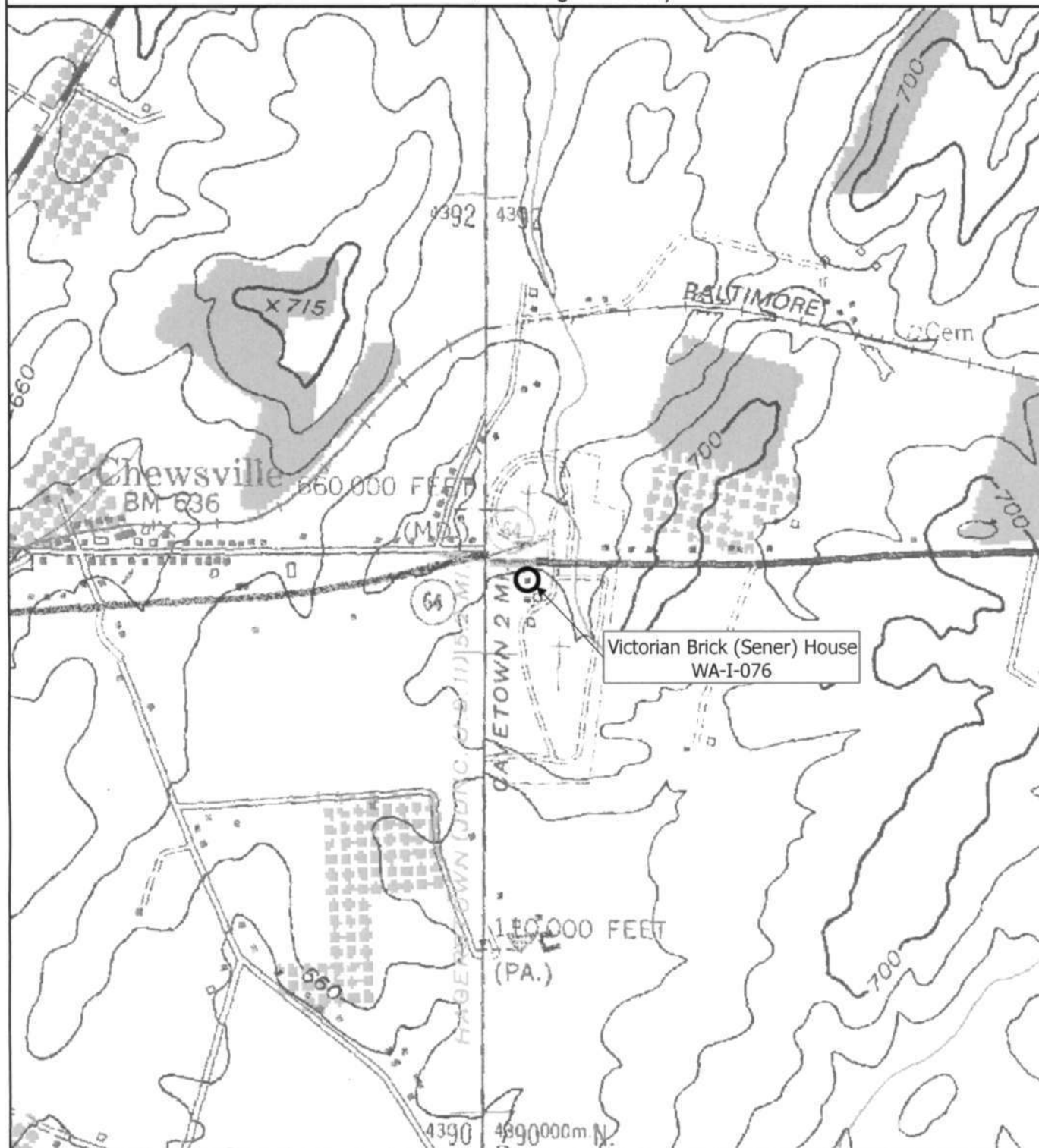
District - 18 Account Number - 007339

ELMWOOD W. GRIMM L/E
929/509
37.83 A.
P.418

VICTORIAN BRICK HOUSE (SENER HOUSE)
WA-I-076
TAX MAP: 51; PARCEL: 418

**Victorian Brick (Sener) House
WA-I-076**

21411 Jefferson Boulevard (MD 64)
Chewsville, Washington County





WA-I-076
VICTORIAN BRICK HOUSE (SENIOR HOUSE)
WASHINGTON COUNTY, MARYLAND

E. YOUNG

03.2007

MD SHPO

north & west elevations; new to southeast

Photo # 1 of 2



WA-I-076

VICTORIAN BRICK HOUSE (SENER HOUSE)

WASHINGTON COUNTY, MARYLAND

E. YOUNG

03.2007

MD SHPO

north & west elevations; view to southeast

Photo # 2 of 2

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM
for the
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME				
COMMON: Victorian brick house near Chewsville				
AND/OR HISTORIC:				
2. LOCATION				
STREET AND NUMBER: (Smithsburg Pike) South of Route 64, just east of Chewsville				
CITY OR TOWN: Chewsville				
STATE Maryland		COUNTY: Washington		
3. CLASSIFICATION				
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industrial (junk yard) <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____ _____ _____
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY				
OWNER'S NAME: Bertie M. Grimm				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN: Chewsville		STATE: Maryland		
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION				
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Washington County Court House				
STREET AND NUMBER: West Washington Street				
CITY OR TOWN: Hagerstown		STATE: Maryland		
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #): 358/762				
6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS				
TITLE OF SURVEY:				
DATE OF SURVEY: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local				
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN:		STATE:		

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This house is located on the south side of Maryland Route 64, just east of Chewsville in Washington County, Md. It is situated on a rise of ground and faces north, toward Route 64.

The structure is a two-story, three-bay brick dwelling painted yellow with white trim. A two-story, two-bay el extends to the rear or south.

The walls are set on carefully coursed fieldstone foundations. Common bonding is employed at all elevations with five rows of stretchers generally occurring between header rows.

The openings appear to have been spaced evenly in the walls. All windows in the main section of the house are double with pairs of four-over-four pane sashes divided by heavy wooden mullions. Each window is topped with a wide lintel trimmed with decorated corner blocks. Windows of both sections of the house show similar framing and trim. Small modified Gothic windows are present at the attic level.

The main entrance is located in the center bay of the front elevation. It is rather elaborate in appearance and is framed similarly to the windows. The door, sidelights and a broad transom are flanked by paneled jambs.

The roof is of sheet metal and asphalt shingles and extends beyond the end walls of the house. An elaborate bracketed cornice is finished with carved gingerbread. Additional elaborately carved woodwork is attached to the barge boards. A brick chimney is located inside the south end wall of the el.

The interior of the house has a central stair hall. Door and window trim in main rooms includes ogee molding and decorated corner blocks. Fireplace mantels display decorative marbeling.

The house is in good condition and is located on a farm containing 118.43 acres. The property is currently used as a salvage yard.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

4-D

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi- | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | losophy | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | itarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The area of significance of this house is its architecture. Apparently constructed during the latter part of the 19th century, this house is worthy of note for its fine Victorian gingerbread. Although the structure has a rather traditional floorplane, its elaborate carved woodwork is rather unusual in Washington County, thus making it a significant example of the area's late 19th century architecture.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES			
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE			
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	
NW	0	'	"		0	'	"	
NE	0	'	"		0	'	"	
SE	0	'	"		0	'	"	
SW	0	'	"		0	'	"	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 118.43 acres.

Acreage Justification:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

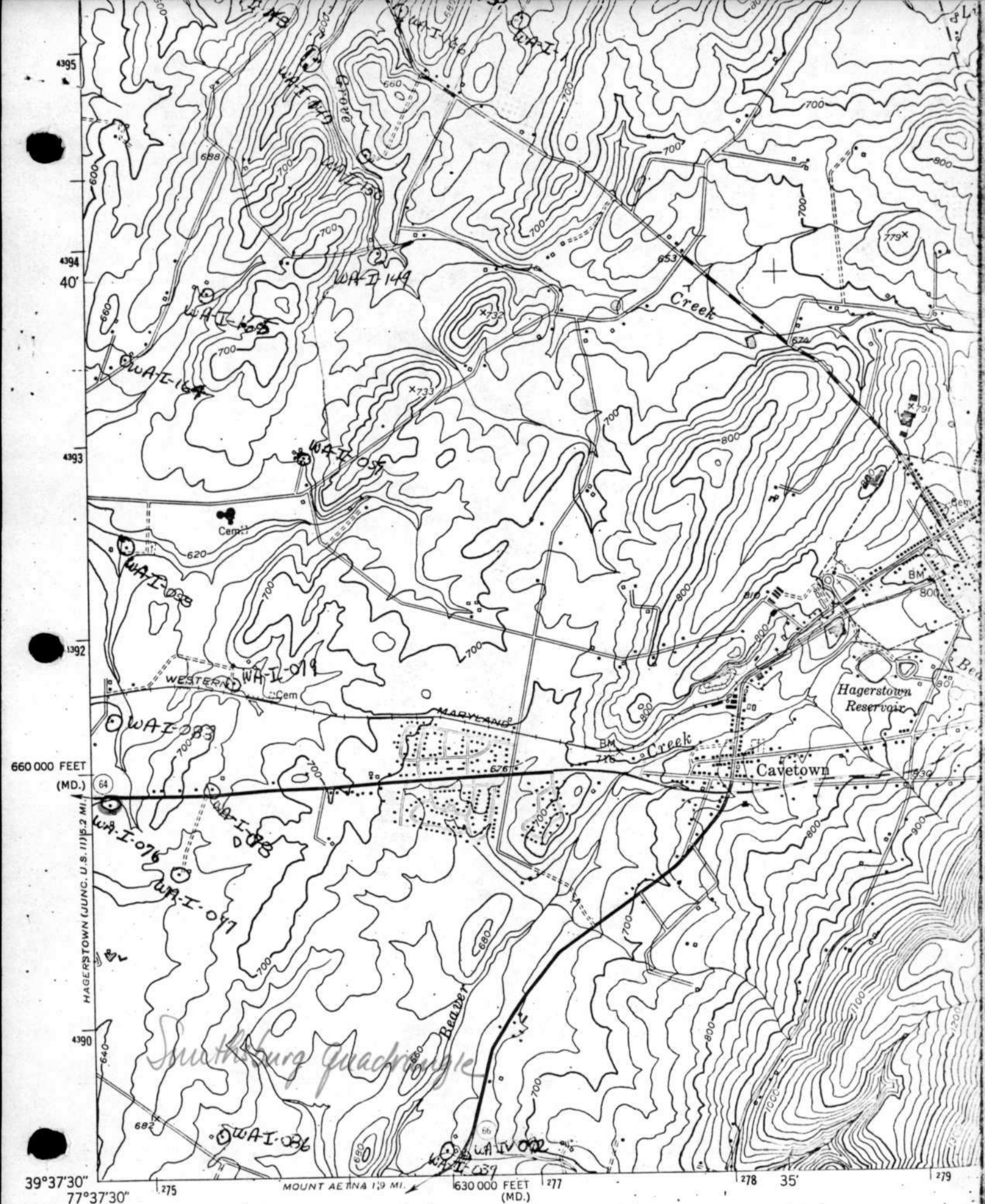
NAME AND TITLE: Paula Stoner Dickey, Consultant	
ORGANIZATION Washington County Historical Sites Survey	DATE January, 1975
STREET AND NUMBER: Court House Annex	
CITY OR TOWN: Hagerstown	STATE Maryland

12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Signature _____



Mapped by the Army Map Service
Edited and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and USC&GS

Topography from aerial photographs by stereophotogrammetric

WA-I-076

FUNKSTOWN
5463 II SW



W.A. 5-876

N 20

Dec 1935

PAULA STONER DICKEY
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON CO.
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY



WA-I-076

N.E.

NOV. 1973

PAULA STONER DICKEY
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON CO.
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY